

08 March 1983

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Subject: Topic for Discussion at DCI Meeting
with Judge Clark on 09 March 1983

Cuban Efforts to Upgrade or Reestablish
Relations with Certain South American Countries

1. Recent Cuban efforts to improve relations with South American countries demonstrate flexibility to take advantage of new developments and determination to strengthen state to state relations. One of the best examples of their taking advantage of new developments was the speed with which they moved to establish links with the new Bolivian government. Bolivia accepted the credentials of a new Cuban charge d'affaires the first week in March. Cuba can be expected to take advantage of any future development in Bolivia to build and strengthen its influence there.

2. [] reported that once the revolution in El Salvador is successful, the Cubans plan to turn their attention to the support of revolutionary activities in Bolivia and Colombia. [] said Cuba considers conditions in these two countries to be the most favorable in Latin America for a concentrated revolutionary effort. Currently Cuba is trying to reestablish diplomatic relations with Colombia and if these attempts fail, may revert to subversive tactics.

3. According to [] Cuba has classified Latin American countries as either targets for political/diplomatic activity or operational areas in which it supports insurgency or radical causes. Those countries which Cuba considers political/diplomatic targets are Venezuela, Mexico, Brazil, Argentina and Colombia. [] noted that Colombia's classification is the most likely one to change depending upon the turn of events. All other South American countries are classified as operational areas for supporting insurgency and radical causes.

4. Cuba considers the normalization of relations with Venezuela to be very important and may compromise on its previous stand on the issue of the 1976 aircraft bombing. Venezuela, however, [] considers a move toward rapprochement with Cuba as "frozen."

5. Cuba continues to seek normalization of relations with Ecuador and Peru, although in both countries the question of how Cuba will treat the refugees who sought asylum in the respective embassies is a question of prime importance. Cuba has had some recent success in developing new commercial relations with both countries. Neither country seems anxious to reestablish ambassadorial links with Cuba.

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